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14	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
15	DISTRICT OF NEVADA	
16		Case No.: 2:15-cv-00890
17	JEFFREY M. CLARKE,	Case 11011 2110 CV 00000
18	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES PURSUANT TO THE FAIR CREDIT
19	V. (	REPORTING ACT, 15 U.S.C. § 1681, ET SEQ.
20		LI SEQ.
21	CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA),   N.A., GMAC MORTGAGE,	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
22	LLC., SYNCHRONY	JUNI IRIAL DEMIANDED
23	BANK/LOWES, and EXPERIAN ) INFORMATION SOLUTIONS,	
24	INC	
25		
26	Defendants.	
27		
28		
	COMPLAINT	
I	I	

#### Introduction

- 1. The United States Congress has found the banking system is dependent upon fair and accurate credit reporting. Inaccurate credit reports directly impair the efficiency of the banking system, and unfair credit reporting methods undermine the public confidence, which is essential to the continued functioning of the banking system. Congress enacted the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seg. ("FCRA"), to insure fair and accurate reporting, promote efficiency in the banking system, and protect consumer privacy. The FCRA seeks to ensure consumer reporting agencies exercise their grave responsibilities with fairness, impartiality, and a respect for the consumer's right to privacy because consumer reporting agencies have assumed such a vital role in assembling and evaluating consumer credit and other information on consumers. The FCRA also imposes duties on the sources that provide credit information to credit reporting agencies, called "furnishers."
- 2. JEFFREY M. CLARKE ("Plaintiff"), by Plaintiff's attorneys, brings this action to challenge the actions of CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A. ("Capital"), GMAC MORTGAGE, LLC. ("GMAC"), SYNCHRONY BANK/LOWES ("Synchrony"), and EXPERIAN INFORMATION SOLUTIONS, INC. ("Experian") (or jointly as "Defendants") with regard to erroneous reports of derogatory and negative credit information made by

- Defendants to national reporting agencies, and for failure of Defendants to properly investigate, and this conduct caused Plaintiff damages.
- 3. Plaintiff makes these allegations on information and belief, with the exception of those allegations that pertain to Plaintiff, or to Plaintiff's counsel, which Plaintiff alleges on personal knowledge.
- 4. While many violations are described below with specificity, this Complaint alleges violations of the statute cited in its entirety.
- 5. Unless otherwise stated, all the conduct engaged in by Defendants took place in Nevada.
- 6. Any violations by Defendants were knowing, willful, and intentional, and Defendant did not maintain procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such violation.
- 7. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of Defendants' name in this Complaint includes all agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers of Defendants' named.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8. This Court has federal question jurisdiction because this case arises out of violation of federal law. 15 U.S.C. §1681 *et seq.*; 28 U.S.C. §1331; *Smith v. Community Lending, Inc.*, 773 F.Supp.2d 941, 946 (D. Nev. 2011). Jurisdiction arises for Plaintiff's supplemental state claims under 28 U.S.C. §

1367.

- 9. This action arises out of Defendants' violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1681(x) ("FCRA").
- 10. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Plaintiff is a resident of Clark County, the State of Nevada and Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in the County of Clark, State of Nevada as they conduct business there, and the conduct giving rise to this action occurred in Nevada. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

#### **PARTIES**

- 11. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in the County of Clark, State of Nevada. In addition, Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c). Defendant Capital is a corporation doing business in the State of Nevada. Defendant GMAC is a corporation doing business in the State of Nevada. Defendant Synchrony is a corporation doing business in the State of Nevada. Defendant Experian is a corporation doing business in the State of Nevada.
- 12. Defendants Capital, GMAC, and Synchrony are furnishers of information as contemplated by 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) that regularly and in the ordinary course of business furnish information to a consumer credit reporting agency.

13. Defendant Experian is a national credit reporting agency, doing business in Nevada, with a principal place of business in Ohio.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 14. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was an individual residing within the State of Nevada.
- 15. At all times relevant, Defendants conducted business in the State of Nevada.
- 16. On or about December 28, 2009, Plaintiff filed for Bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada. Plaintiff's case was assigned Case Number 09-34139 (the "Bankruptcy").
- 17. The obligations ("Debt") to each defendant were scheduled in the Bankruptcy and Defendants, the Creditors, received notice of the Bankruptcy.
- 18. On or about April 11, 2014, Plaintiff received a Bankruptcy discharge.
- 19. None of the Defendants filed any proceedings to declare their Debt "non dischargeable" pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 523 et seq.
- 20. Defendants also did not request relief from the "automatic stay" codified at 11 U.S.C. §362 *et seq.* while the Plaintiff's Bankruptcy was pending to pursue the Plaintiff on any *personal* liability for any of the underlying Debts.
- 21. Accordingly, the Debt to each defendant was discharged through the Bankruptcy.

- 22. Further, while the automatic stay was in effect during the Bankruptcy, it was illegal for any of the Defendants to report any post-Bankruptcy derogatory collection information.
- 23. Defendants' attempt to collect upon their respective Debt by reporting post-Bankruptcy derogatory information was therefore false or inaccurate and prohibited by the automatic stay or Discharge.
- 24. Plaintiff subsequently learned that each of the named Defendants reported post-Bankruptcy derogatory credit information regarding the obligations on Plaintiff's credit reports, thereby causing erroneous and negative credit information in Plaintiff's credit files.

# The Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. Misreported Credit Information Re: Account No. 517805255987\*.

- 25. In an Experian credit report dated August 26, 2014, Capital reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - January 2010 (30 days past due)
- 26. Capital should not have reported derogatory information on Plaintiff's account after December 28, 2009, because Plaintiff filed for Bankruptcy on December 28, 2009.
- 27. On or about October 17, 2014, Plaintiff disputed Capital's reported information regarding the Debt pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681I(a)(2) by

notifying Experian, in writing, of the incorrect and inaccurate credit information furnished by Capital.

- 28. Specifically, Plaintiff sent a letter, certified, return receipt, to Experian (the "Experian Dispute Letter"), requesting the above inaccurate and incorrect derogatory information be removed as follows:
  - This account was discharged in my chapter 13 Bankruptcy which was filed on 12/28/2009 and discharged 4/1112014, bearing docket No. 09-34139 in the District for Nevada. There should be no derogatory reporting after the filing date. Specifically, please remove the derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates: Jan 2010 (30 days past due).
- 29. The Experian Dispute Letter further requested that Experian:
  - Immediately delete this account and the disputed derogatory information from [Plaintiff's] credit report.
  - The discharged debt should be reported with an account balance of \$0 with a status of "current".
  - Further, there should be no post-bankruptcy activity reported on this account. The date of last activity on this account should predate my bankruptcy filing date, 12/28/2009, since a default on this account occurred no later than the Bankruptcy filing date.
  - Any post-bankruptcy derogatory information should be immediately deleted from [Plaintiff's] report.
  - If [Experian] do[es] not immediately delete this from [Plaintiff's] credit report, please include a 100-word statement in my credit report of all of the disputed information contained in this letter regarding this account.
- 30.Upon information and belief, Experian timely notified Capital of Plaintiff's dispute, but Capital continued reporting derogatory information.

- 31.Capital and Experian were required to conduct a reinvestigation into this specific account on Plaintiff's consumer report pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681i.
- 32. On or about October 29, 2014, Plaintiff received notification from Experian that Capital and Experian received notice of Plaintiff's dispute pursuant to 15 U.SC. § 1681i(a)(6), and verified the account "may be considered negative."
- 33. Surprisingly, rather than remove all the derogatory information from Plaintiff's report, Capital and Experian simply left derogatory information on Plaintiff's report. Specifically, Capital and Experian reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - January 2010 (30 days past due)
  - Account Balances from October 2012 April 2013 (Added derogatory information)
- 34. Capital and Experian, upon receipt of Plaintiff's dispute, failed to conduct an investigation with respect to the disputed information as required by 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(A).
- 35. Capital and Experian failed to review all relevant information provided by Plaintiff in the dispute to Experian, as required by and in violation of 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(B).

- 36. Due to Capital and Experian's failure to investigate, they each further failed to correct and update Plaintiff's information as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(E), thereby causing continued reporting of inaccurate information in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(C).
- 37. Plaintiff's continued efforts to correct Capital and Experian's erroneous and negative reporting of the Debt by communicating Plaintiff's dispute with Capital and Experian were fruitless.
- 38. Capital and Experian's continued inaccurate and negative reporting of the Debt in light of its knowledge of the actual error was willful.
- 39. Capital and Experian's inaccurate and negative reporting damaged Plaintiff's creditworthiness.
- 40. By inaccurately reporting account information relating to the Debt after notice and confirmation of its errors, Capital and Experian failed to take the appropriate measures as determined in 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(D) and (E).

# The Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. Misreported Credit Information Re: Account No. 517805829617\*.

- 41. In an Experian credit report dated August 26, 2014, Capital reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - January 2010 (30 days past due)

- 42. Capital should not have reported derogatory information on Plaintiff's account after December 28, 2009, because Plaintiff filed for Bankruptcy on December 28, 2009.
- 43. On or about October 17, 2014, Plaintiff disputed Capital's reported information regarding the Debt pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681I(a)(2) by notifying Experian, in writing, of the incorrect and inaccurate credit information furnished by Capital.
- 44. Specifically, Plaintiff sent a letter, certified, return receipt, to Experian (the "Experian Dispute Letter"), requesting the above inaccurate and incorrect derogatory information be removed as follows:
  - This account was discharged in my chapter 13 Bankruptcy which was filed on 12/28/2009 and discharged 4/1112014, bearing docket No. 09-34139 in the District for Nevada. There should be no derogatory reporting after the filing date. Specifically, please remove the derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates: Jan 2010 (30 days past due).
- 45. The Experian Dispute Letter further requested that Experian:
  - Immediately delete this account and the disputed derogatory information from [Plaintiff's] credit report.
  - The discharged debt should be reported with an account balance of \$0 with a status of "current".
  - Further, there should be no post-bankruptcy activity reported on this account. The date of last activity on this account should predate my bankruptcy filing date, 12/28/2009, since a default on this account occurred no later than the Bankruptcy filing date.

- Any post-bankruptcy derogatory information should be immediately deleted from [Plaintiff's] report.
- If [Experian] do[es] not immediately delete this from [Plaintiff's] credit report, please include a 100-word statement in my credit report of all of the disputed information contained in this letter regarding this account.
- 46. Upon information and belief, Experian timely notified Capital of Plaintiff's dispute, but Capital continued reporting derogatory information.
- 47. Capital and Experian were required to conduct a reinvestigation into this specific account on Plaintiff's consumer report pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681i.
- 48. On or about October 29, 2014, Plaintiff received notification from Experian that Capital and Experian received notice of Plaintiff's dispute pursuant to 15 U.SC. § 1681i(a)(6), and verified the account "may be considered negative."
- 49. Surprisingly, rather than remove all the derogatory information from Plaintiff's report, Capital and Experian simply left derogatory information on Plaintiff's report. Specifically, Capital and Experian reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - January 2010 (30 days past due)
  - Account Balances from October 2012 April 2013 (Added derogatory information)

- 50. Capital and Experian, upon receipt of Plaintiff's dispute, failed to conduct an investigation with respect to the disputed information as required by 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(A).
- 51. Capital and Experian failed to review all relevant information provided by Plaintiff in the dispute to Experian, as required by and in violation of 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(B).
- 52. Due to Capital and Experian's failure to investigate, they each further failed to correct and update Plaintiff's information as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(E), thereby causing continued reporting of inaccurate information in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(C).
- 53. Plaintiff's continued efforts to correct Capital and Experian's erroneous and negative reporting of the Debt by communicating Plaintiff's dispute with Capital and Experian were fruitless.
- 54. Capital and Experian's continued inaccurate and negative reporting of the Debt in light of its knowledge of the actual error was willful.
- 55. Capital and Experian's inaccurate and negative reporting damaged Plaintiff's creditworthiness.
- 56. By inaccurately reporting account information relating to the Debt after notice and confirmation of its errors, Capital and Experian failed to take the appropriate measures as determined in 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(D) and (E).

### The GMAC Mortgage, LLC. Misreported Credit Information Re: Account No. 60178\*.

- 57. In an Experian credit report dated August 26, 2014, GMAC reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - 08/2010 (30 days past due); 09/2010 (60 days past due); 10/2010 (90 days past due); 11/2010 (120 days past due); 12/2010 02/2012 (FS
    - Foreclosure proceedings started) and 03/2012 (F Foreclosed).
- 58. GMAC should not have reported derogatory information on Plaintiff's account after December 28, 2009, because Plaintiff filed for Bankruptcy on December 28, 2009.
- 59. On or about October 17, 2014, Plaintiff disputed GMAC's reported information regarding the Debt pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681I(a)(2) by notifying Experian, in writing, of the incorrect and inaccurate credit information furnished by GMAC.
- 60. Specifically, Plaintiff sent a letter, certified, return receipt, to Experian (the "Experian Dispute Letter"), requesting the above inaccurate and incorrect derogatory information be removed as follows:
  - This account was discharged in my chapter 13 Bankruptcy which was filed on 12/28/2009 and discharged 4/11/2014, bearing docket No. 09-3 413 9 in the District for Nevada. There should be no derogatory reporting after the filing date. Specifically, please remove the derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates: 08/2010 (30 days past due); 09/2010 (60 days past due); 10/2010 (90 days past due); 11/2010 (120 days past due); 12/2010-02/2012 (FS-Foreclosure proceedings started) and 03/2012 (F-Foreclosed).

- 61. The Experian Dispute Letter further requested that Experian:
  - Immediately delete this account and the disputed derogatory information from [Plaintiff's] credit report.
  - The discharged debt should be reported with an account balance of \$0 with a status of "current".
  - Further, there should be no post-bankruptcy activity reported on this account. The date of last activity on this account should predate my bankruptcy filing date, 12/28/2009, since a default on this account occurred no later than the Bankruptcy filing date.
  - Any post-bankruptcy derogatory information should be immediately deleted from [Plaintiff's] report.
  - If [Experian] do[es] not immediately delete this from [Plaintiff's] credit report, please include a 100-word statement in my credit report of all of the disputed information contained in this letter regarding this account.
  - 62. Upon information and belief, Experian timely notified GMAC of Plaintiff's dispute, but GMAC continued reporting derogatory information.
  - 63.GMAC and Experian were required to conduct a reinvestigation into this specific account on Plaintiff's consumer report pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681i.
- 64. On or about October 29, 2014, Plaintiff received notification from Experian that GMAC and Experian received notice of Plaintiff's dispute pursuant to 15 U.SC. § 1681i(a)(6), and verified the account "may be considered negative."

- 65. Surprisingly, rather than remove all the derogatory information from Plaintiff's report, GMAC and Experian simply left derogatory information on Plaintiff's report. Specifically, GMAC and Experian reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - 08/2010 (30 days past due); 09/2010 (60 days past due); 10/2010 (90 days past due); 11/2010 (120 days past due); 12/2010 02/2012 (FS Foreclosure proceedings started) and 03/2012 (F Foreclosed).
- 66. GMAC and Experian, upon receipt of Plaintiff's dispute, failed to conduct an investigation with respect to the disputed information as required by 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(A).
- 67. GMAC and Experian failed to review all relevant information provided by Plaintiff in the dispute to Experian, as required by and in violation of 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(B).
- 68. Due to GMAC and Experian's failure to investigate, they each further failed to correct and update Plaintiff's information as required by 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(E), thereby causing continued reporting of inaccurate information in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(C).
- 69. Plaintiff's continued efforts to correct GMAC and Experian's erroneous and negative reporting of the Debt by communicating Plaintiff's dispute with GMAC and Experian were fruitless.

- 70. GMAC and Experian's continued inaccurate and negative reporting of the Debt in light of its knowledge of the actual error was willful.
- 71. GMAC and Experian's inaccurate and negative reporting damaged Plaintiff's creditworthiness.
- 72. By inaccurately reporting account information relating to the Debt after notice and confirmation of its errors, GMAC and Experian failed to take the appropriate measures as determined in 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(D) and (E).

## The Synchrony Bank/Lowes Misreported Credit Information Re: Account No. 798192429030\*.

- 73. In an Experian credit report dated August 26, 2014, Synchrony reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - January 2010 (60 days past due)
- 74. Synchrony should not have reported derogatory information on Plaintiff's account after December 28, 2009, because Plaintiff filed for Bankruptcy on December 28, 2009.
- 75. On or about October 17, 2014, Plaintiff disputed Syncrhony's reported information regarding the Debt pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681I(a)(2) by notifying Experian, in writing, of the incorrect and inaccurate credit information furnished by Synchrony.

- 76. Specifically, Plaintiff sent a letter, certified, return receipt, to Experian (the "Experian Dispute Letter"), requesting the above inaccurate and incorrect derogatory information be removed as follows:
  - This account was discharged in my chapter 13 Bankruptcy which was filed on 12/28/2009 and discharged 4/11/2014, bearing docket No. 09-34139 in the District for Nevada. There should be no derogatory reporting after the filing date. Specifically, please remove the derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates: Jan 2010 (60 days past due).
- 77. The Experian Dispute Letter further requested that Experian:
  - Immediately delete this account and the disputed derogatory information from [Plaintiff's] credit report.
  - The discharged debt should be reported with an account balance of \$0 with a status of "current".
  - Further, there should be no post-bankruptcy activity reported on this account. The date of last activity on this account should predate my bankruptcy filing date, 12/28/2009, since a default on this account occurred no later than the Bankruptcy filing date.
  - Any post-bankruptcy derogatory information should be immediately deleted from [Plaintiff's] report.
  - If [Experian] do[es] not immediately delete this from [Plaintiff's] credit report, please include a 100-word statement in my credit report of all of the disputed information contained in this letter regarding this account.
- 78.Upon information and belief, Experian timely notified Syncrhony of Plaintiff's dispute, but Synchrony continued reporting derogatory information.

- 79. Synchrony and Experian were required to conduct a reinvestigation into this specific account on Plaintiff's consumer report pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1681i.
- 80. On or about October 29, 2014, Plaintiff received notification from Experian that Synchrony and Experian received notice of Plaintiff's dispute pursuant to 15 U.SC. § 1681i(a)(6), and verified the account "may be considered negative."
- 81. Surprisingly, rather than remove all the derogatory information from Plaintiff's report, Synchrony and Experian simply left derogatory information on Plaintiff's report. Specifically, Synchrony and Experian reported inaccurate, derogatory information for the following post-bankruptcy dates:
  - January 2010 (60 days past due)
- 82. Synchrony and Experian, upon receipt of Plaintiff's dispute, failed to conduct an investigation with respect to the disputed information as required by 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(A).
- 83. Synchrony and Experian failed to review all relevant information provided by Plaintiff in the dispute to Experian, as required by and in violation of 15 U.SC. § 1681s-2(b)(1)(B).
- 84. Due to Synchrony and Experian's failure to investigate, they each further failed to correct and update Plaintiff's information as required by 15 U.S.C.

- § 1681s-2(b)(1)(E), thereby causing continued reporting of inaccurate information in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(C).
- 85. Plaintiff's continued efforts to correct Synchrony and Experian's erroneous and negative reporting of the Debt by communicating Plaintiff's dispute with Synchrony and Experian were fruitless.
- 86. Synchrony and Experian's continued inaccurate and negative reporting of the Debt in light of its knowledge of the actual error was willful.
- 87. Synchrony and Experian's inaccurate and negative reporting damaged Plaintiff's creditworthiness.
- 88. By inaccurately reporting account information relating to the Debt after notice and confirmation of its errors, Synchrony and Experian failed to take the appropriate measures as determined in 15 U.S.C. §§ 1681-s(2)(b)(1)(D) and (E).

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT 15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.* (FCRA)

- 89.Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 90. The foregoing acts and omissions constitute numerous and multiple willful, reckless or negligent violations of the FCRA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C § 1681.

- 91.As a result of each and every willful violation of the FCRA, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages as the Court may allow pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1); statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1); punitive damages as the Court may allow pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(2); and reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(3) from Defendants.
- 92.As a result of each and every negligent noncompliance of the FCRA, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages as the Court may allow pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681o(a)(1); and reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681o(a)(2) from Defendants.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant Plaintiff the following relief against Defendants:

### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT 15 U.S.C. § 1681 ET SEQ. (FCRA)

- an award of actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1);
- award of statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(1);
- an award of punitive damages as the Court may allow pursuant to 15
   U.S.C. § 1681n(a)(2);